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1983 Annual Report

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Message from the District Manager

I am happy to release the annual report (FY 83) for the Anchorage District. This has been a year of accomplishment in which all management goals were met or exceeded. Highlighted by the completion of management plans for the Unalakleet, Delta and Gulkana rivers, the Denali Scenic Highway plan and the opening of lands to settlement at Slana. Quality staff work and the positive attitude of our employees made these accomplishments happen.

If there are questions, comments or suggestions regarding management by the district please contact us.

Wayne A. Boden
Wayne A. Boden
District Manager

Anchorage District Office
4700 East 72nd Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

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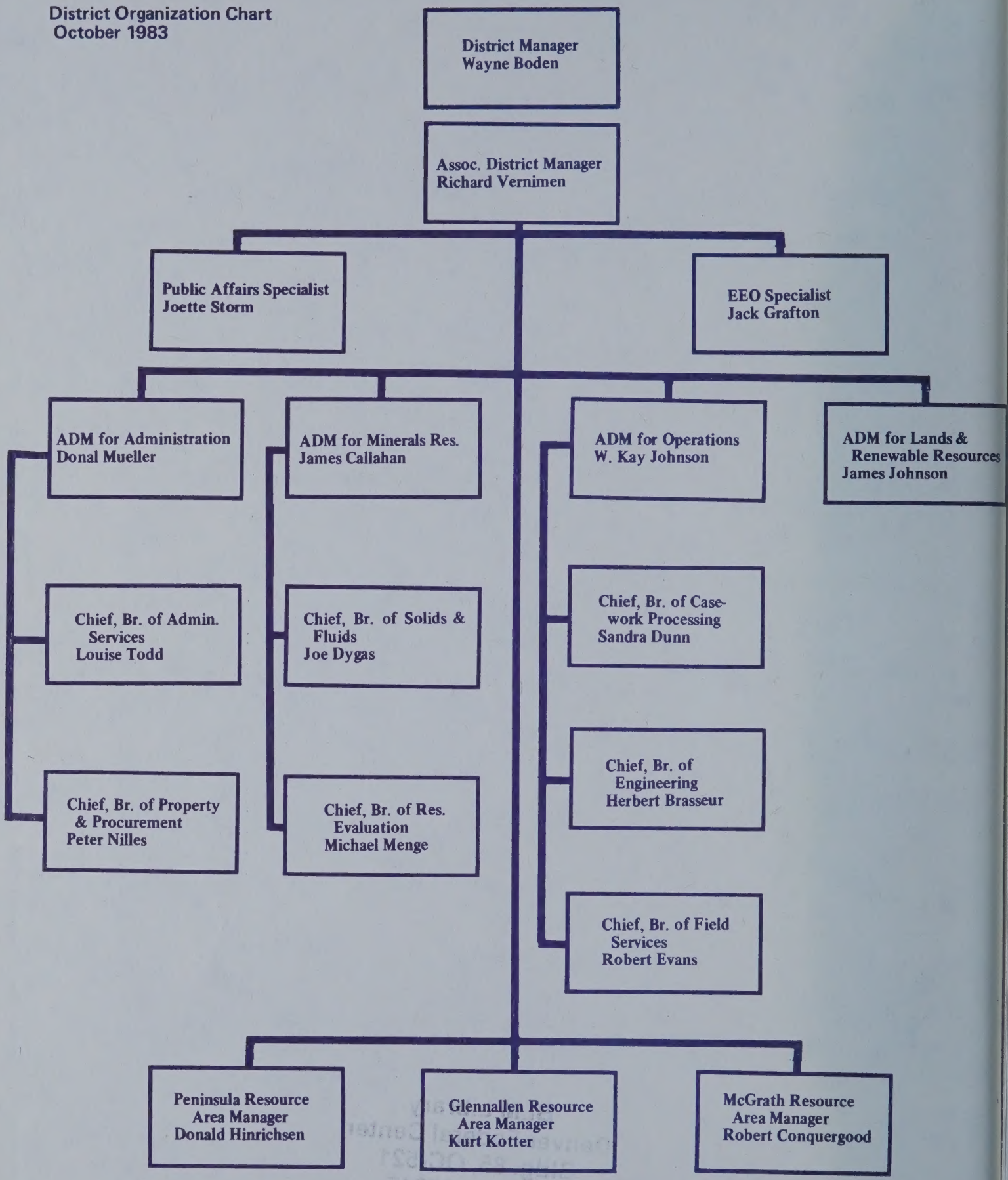
District Organization Chart
October 1983



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Introduction

Nationwide, the BLM underwent organizational changes in an effort to decentralize its operations. BLM Alaska was no exception.

As a result, district level functions were increased and strengthened. New duties include land and mining adjudication as well as oil and gas production monitoring. Native allotment field examinations along with planning, habitat management and cultural and surface resources continue to be the staple of the district workload.

In October, the district welcomed its new District Manager, Wayne Boden, former Associate District Manager of the agency's office in Medford, Oregon.

A move to reorganize the agency resulted in the assignment of three new area managers. Don Hindrichsen became the Peninsula Area Manager, Bob Conquergood, the McGrath Area Manager and Kurt Kotter, the Glennallen Area Manager.

The Mineral Resources division was created by merging BLM's minerals responsibilities with the on-shore portion of Minerals Management Service. This new ADO division has lead responsibility for leasable minerals on all federal lands in the state.

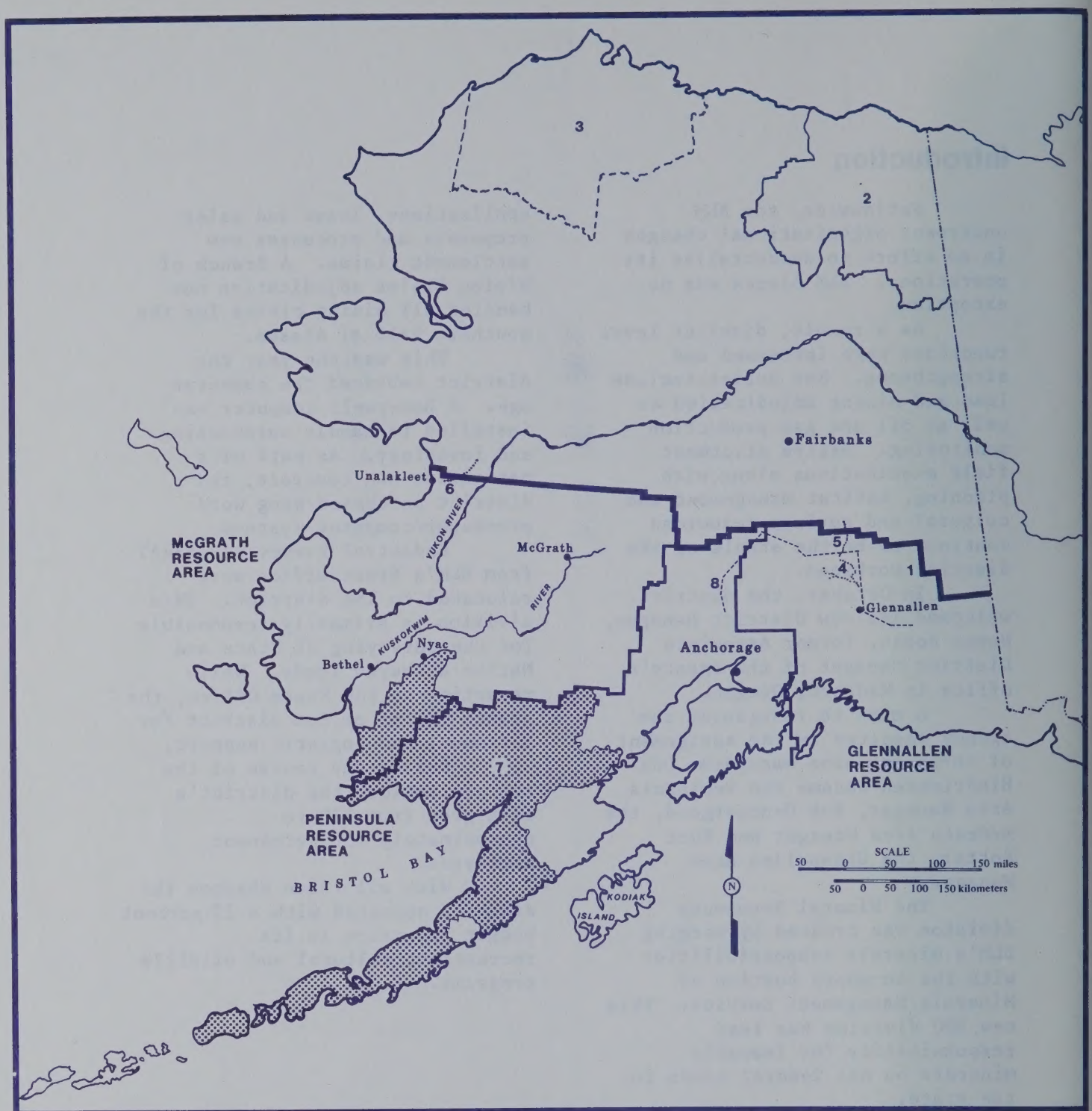
The BLM opened its third and newest Public Room at the Anchorage District. The office provides the public with current land status information for BLM administered lands in Alaska; it also accepts right-of-way applications, lease and sales proposals and processes new settlement claims. A Branch of Mining Claims adjudication now handles all mining claims for the southern half of Alaska.

This was the year the district embraced the computer age. A Honeywell computer was installed to handle warehousing and inventory. As part of a nationwide BLM contract, the district purchased Wang word processor/computer systems.

Cadastral Survey personnel from BLM's State Office were relocated to the district. This division is primarily responsible for the surveying of State and Native conveyed lands. While reporting to the State Office, the branch relies on the district for personnel and logistic support.

During the course of the reorganization, the district's size grew from 120 to approximately 150 permanent employees.

With all these changes the district operated with a 12 percent budget reduction in its recreation, cultural and wildlife programs.



MAP KEY

1. Slana - 10,250 acres opened for land settlement by BLM in September 1983.
2. ANWR - (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.) Oil and gas resource assessment work is being conducted in these 1.5 million acres.
3. NPR-A - (National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska.) 23 million-acre area where 2 million acres are offered annually for oil and gas lease sales.
4. Delta River - Management plan developed for this wild and scenic river.
5. Gulkana River - Management plan developed for this wild and scenic river.
6. Unalakleet River - Management plan developed for this wild and scenic river.
7. Bristol Bay planning area - Management plan now being developed by State, Federal and local managers on this 31 million acre area.
8. Denali Scenic Highway - study made of highway system for it's consideration as a natural scenic highway.

Mobile home parked on settlement land.

Land Disposal Program

When BLM opened 10,250 acres for settlement in southcentral Alaska in September, it attracted thousands of inquiries and extensive coverage by national news media.

The two areas that were opened, the north and south Slana parcels, are approximately 70 miles northeast of Glennallen.

During the first week, 195 individuals trekked to these relatively remote parcels to stake land and make application to the Anchorage District. Neither harsh terrain and bad weather nor the lack of commercial facilities has kept people from completing 142 homesite, 23 headquarter site, and 30 trade and manufacturing site applications by December 15.

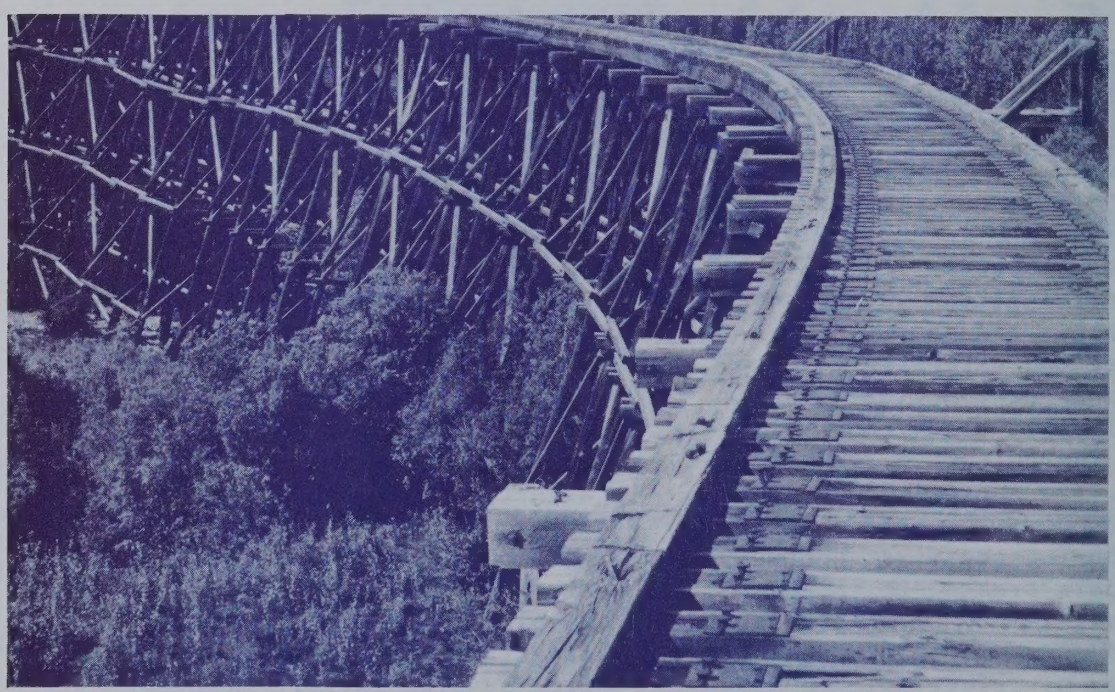
Before the opening, district land office employees flew over the parcels to familiarize themselves with the area. Field personnel made on-the-ground checks and found approximately 20 entries of significant use.

During the initial weeks of the opening, the ADO Public Room staff swelled from one to 12 people. More than 400 telephone calls and more than 75 visitors were handled daily. Since August, 3,800 Slana information brochures have been distributed by mail and several hundred more have been given to visitors.

Lands

The Alaska Pacific University (APU) transferred 41.6 acres of its land to the University of Alaska in the fall of 1983. Since BLM retains a Federal oversight responsibility on use of this land, District Manager Wayne Boden and university representatives signed the land transfer.

The land was originally part of 240 acres of Federal land purchased by Alaska Methodist University (now APU) under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. BLM will continue to monitor land development on these acres to assure compliance with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.



Old bridge overlooking public land.

Native village.

Native Allotments

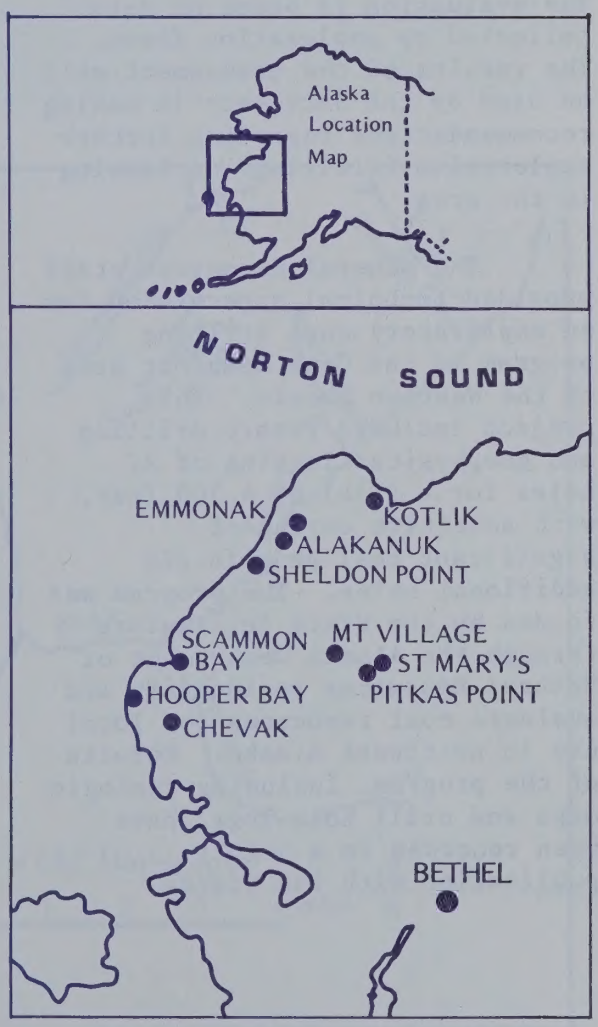
The McGrath and Peninsula staffs examined 1350 Native allotments, 600 more than their goal.

Allotment work took 12 specialists to distant Native villages as Emmonak, Alakanuk, St. Marys, Pitka's Point, Kotlik, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Sheldon Point, Mountain Village and Chevak.

Good weather, a can-do attitude, well organized field camps, outstanding logistical support, and excellent food all contributed to the record number of Native allotments examined between June 1 - July 15.

All of the Native allotment work assigned to the Glennallen office was completed ahead of schedule.

Fifty-seven Native allotment field reports were written for field work done in 1982 plus 230 for field examinations accomplished in 1983.



Minerals

The Minerals Division, Branch of Resource Evaluation staff is participating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in an oil and gas resource assessment of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), as provided for in Sec. 1002 of ANILCA. The BLM is responsible for detailed geophysical mapping, identification, and economic evaluation of specific hydrocarbon-trapping mechanisms. The evaluation is based on data collected by exploration firms. The results of the assessment will be used by the Secretary in making recommendations regarding further exploration (drilling) or leasing in the area.

The Mineral Resources staff provided technical supervision for an exploratory coal drilling program in the Cape Beaufort area of the Western Arctic. This project included rotary drilling and geophysical logging of 27 holes for a total of 4,300 feet, with selective coring of significant coal beds in six additional holes. The program was funded by the State legislature through the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to identify and evaluate coal resources for local use in northwest Alaska. Results of the program, including geologic maps and drill hole logs, have been recorded in a joint publication with the State.

Regulatory supervision of oil and gas operations involving Federal leases on public and US Fish and Wildlife Service lands in the Cook Inlet area is the responsibility of the Branch of Solids and Fluids. The staff is presently identifying unleased Federal acreage in the area subject to competitive leasing. Those lands particularly noted will be subject to possible drainage in the vicinity of producing or producible fields.

The third competitive oil and gas lease sale in the NPR-A was conducted in July. Two million acres were offered, with ARCO placing the highest total bids of $9.3 million for 196,000 acres south of Barrow.

This lease sale is part of an ongoing program within the NPR-A (National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska) offering 2 million acres for oil and gas leases each year. Four more annual sales are scheduled. The staff selects parcels for lease and assures that the Government receives fair market value on bids received.

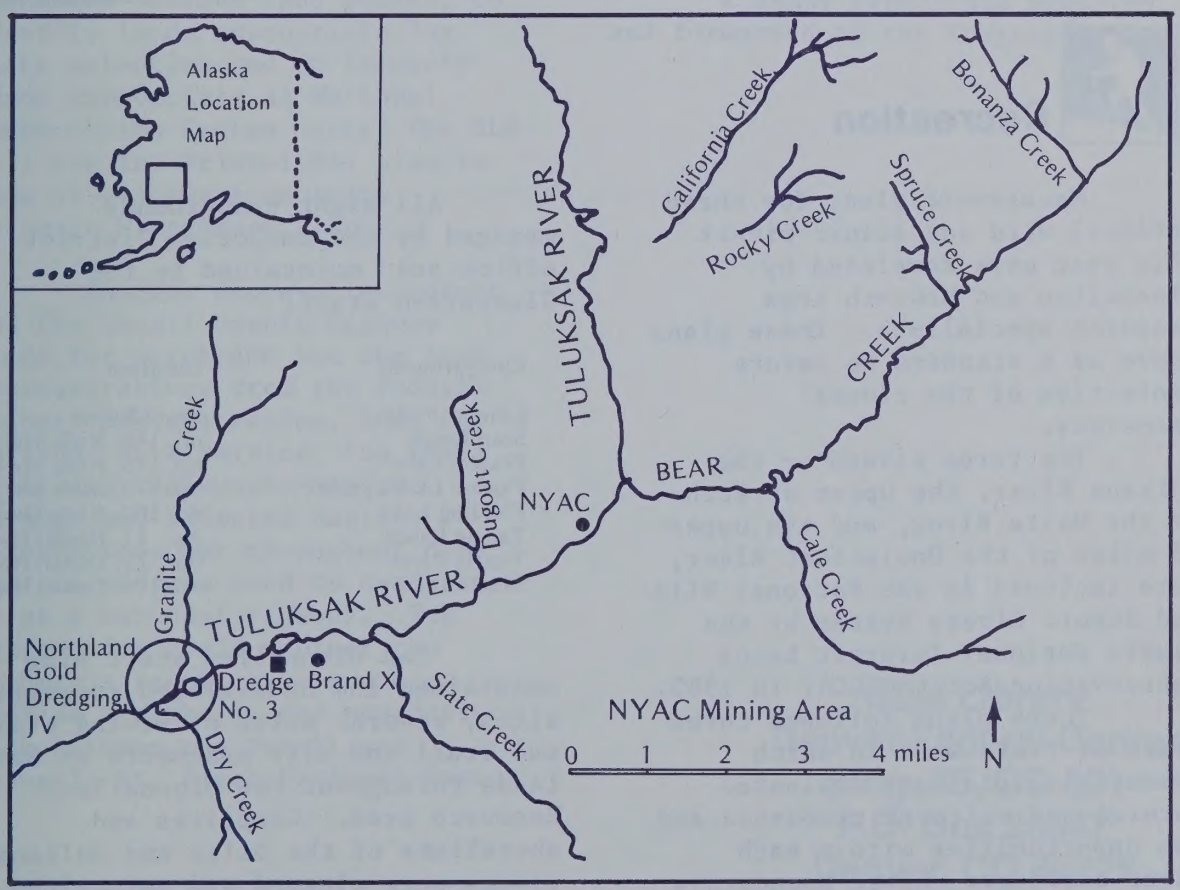
A formal appeal by regional Native group, Nunam Kitlusisti, halted the proposed opening of land to oil and gas leasing, new mineral entry and settlement under FLPMA sales/lease provisions in the Upper Kuskokwim planning block.

Eight patent examinations were conducted on 52 claims. The

examinations determine the quality and quantity of gold being extracted from placer claims. Eight field reports on 38 claims were completed on field work done in 1982.

An existing dredging operation posed a challenge to BLM when a 1 1/2-mile diversion of the Tuluksak river was proposed by the Northland Gold Dredging, JV company. To determine whether the diversion could be done without damaging fish habitat, a district hydrologist, fisheries biologist, archaeologist and two geologists studied present and past mining activities on the river.

If it is determined that the diversion of the river will not cause undue degradation to the rearing and spawning habitat for silver, king and chum salmon, then BLM will assist with the project.



Unalakleet River.

Recreation

Management plans for three national wild and scenic rivers this year were completed by Glennallen and McGrath area resource specialists. These plans serve as a standard to assure protection of the rivers' resources.

The three rivers -- the Gulkana River, the upper stretch of the Delta River, and the upper 65 miles of the Unalakleet River, were included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980.

These plans followed three years of field work in which resource specialists evaluated natural and cultural resources and use opportunities within each river corridor. River boundaries were also established in each management plan.

All eight campgrounds managed by the Anchorage District office are maintained by the Glennallen staff.

Campgrounds	Location
Liberty Falls	near Chitina
Sourdough	mi. 148, Rich. Hwy
Paxson Lake	mi. 175, Rich. Hwy
Paxson Lk Wayside	mi. 179, Rich. Hwy
Fielding Lake	mi. 200, Rich. Hwy
Tangle Lakes	mi. 21, Denali Hwy
Tangle River	mi. 22, Denali Hwy
Brushkana	mi. 104, Denali Hwy

The Glennallen staff also maintained 150 undeveloped recreation sites, several miles of hiking trails, and trail and site easements on Native lands throughout the Glennallen Resource area. Campsites and shorelines of the Delta and Gulkana rivers were cleaned and maintained. River rangers assisted many people who suffered mishaps on those rivers.

Planning

BLM administers 1.9 million acres in the Bristol Bay region. Management concerns center on minerals, oil and gas, recreation, and wildlife. Federal, State, and local land managers are preparing a cooperative management plan for the region.

The Bristol Bay Cooperative Management plan is designed to be a balanced approach to management.

It is based on ANILCA which requires the plan, to conserve fish and wildlife and other significant natural resources, to encourage reasonable economic development, to recommend land exchanges between land owners, to identify lands appropriate for State selection and to identify lands appropriate as National Conservation System units. The BLM will use the Bristol Bay plan in lieu of writing a separate Resource Management Plan.

Another cooperative effort was the Denali Scenic Highway Study for which ADO had the lead. Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, BLM, the National Park Service, the State of Alaska, Matanuska-Susitna Borough and affected Native corporations met throughout the year to address need to designate it as a national highway. The designation could protect the highway's scenic values and provide a symbolic and physical link between the Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks.

The study area includes a 500-mile corridor, including the Denali Highway, McCarthy Road, Edgerton Highway, and portions of the Parks and Richardson Highways.

The group recommended the Denali Highway system not receive designation as a national scenic highway. The decision stems from the lack of Federal public land along most of the study corridor, coupled with overwhelming public opposition. Instead, cooperative agreements were signed by Federal and State agencies to ensure that management properly considers the resource values of the corridor.

A study report was prepared and forwarded to the Congress.

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Captured red-tailed hawks.

Wildlife

A study continues to be conducted by the BLM and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Fish and Wildlife Service National Fishery Research Center to locate steelhead trout overwintering and spawning areas in the Glennallen Resource area. Spawning times will be determined so steps can be taken to minimize potential impacts to fishery resources from energy exploration.

In 1982, twenty-three steelhead trout were fitted with radio transmitters and tracked for approximately 9 months. Most of the fish went into the Tazlina or Gulkana River drainages. Overwintering locations and spawning areas were mapped. Streams such as the Kaina, Durham, Eight Mile, and Hungry Hollow were discovered to be steelhead spawning streams.

In September, 1983, an additional 25 steelhead were captured and radio-tagged in the Copper River. These fish are currently being tracked.

In another cooperative venture, the BLM and ADF&G has produced a report on lake enhancement for Dickey and Monsoon Lakes. Water quality, zooplankton, phytoplanton and bathymetry data were collected on these lakes. Recommendations are that Monsoon Lake is suitable for salmon stocking and Dickey Lake is suitable for rainbow stocking.

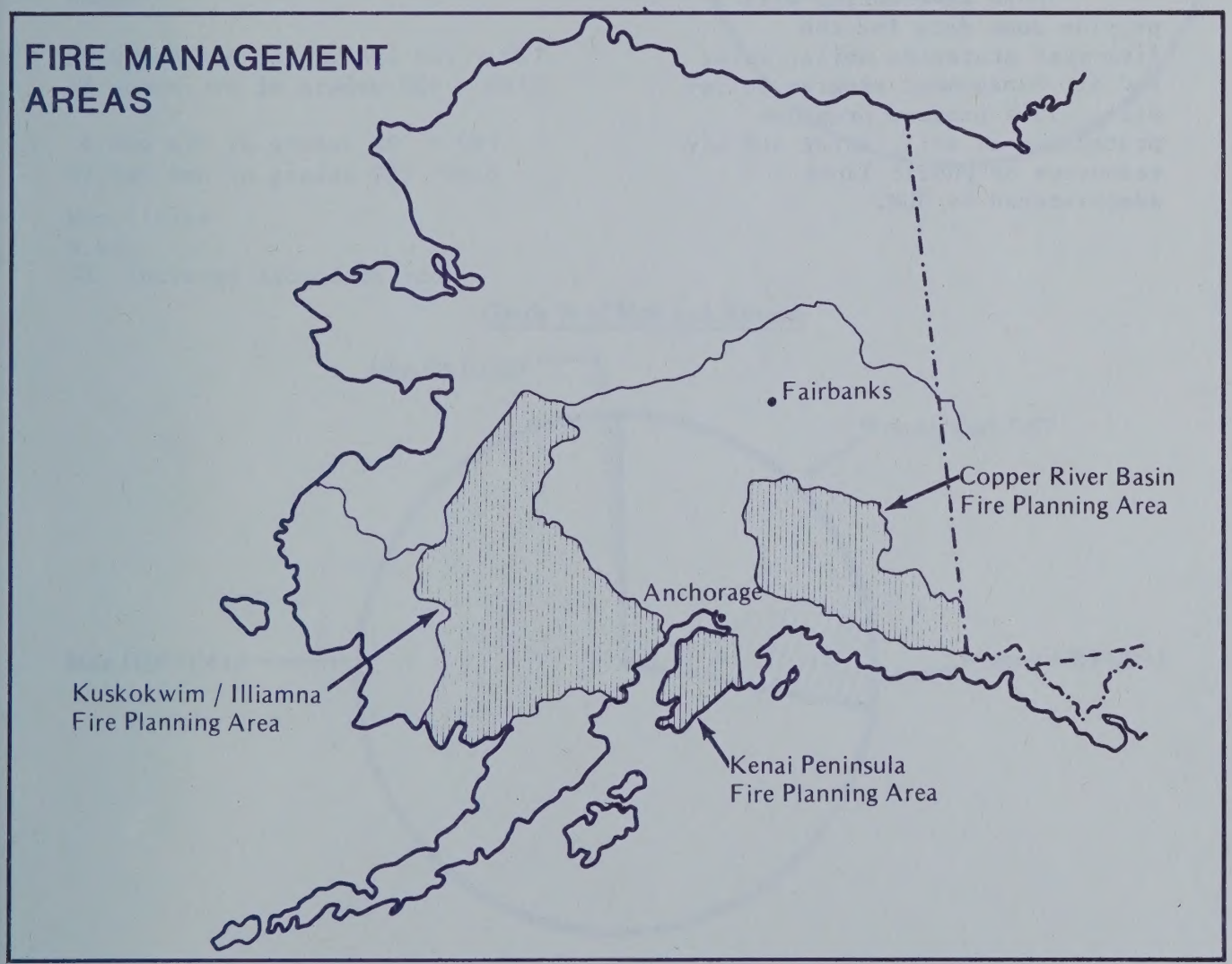
Trumpeter swan habitat was inventoried in the Gulkana Wildlife Area. Trumpeters and a few tundra swans were spotted.

Since 1979, BLM has been conducting raptor (birds of prey) studies along 16 rivers in southwest Alaska. During the summer, seasonal biologists' efforts concentrated on observing peregrine falcons and rough-legged hawk nests along the Kuskokwim River. This research is documented in the 1983 BLM publication Nesting Raptors in Southwestern Alaska: Status, Distribution and Aspects of Biology, available from the BLM State Office.

More than 70 nest sites were located during a continuing raptor inventory along the Gulkana River. Approximately half the nests are active in any given year. During FY-83 productivity of the nests, and factors affecting productivity, such as nest location and disturbances, were recorded.

Fire Management

A major interagency cooperative effort involving BLM is the development of fire management plans for the Copper River Basin, Kuskokwim/Iliamna and Kenai. The Copper Basin and Kuskokwim/Iliamna fire management plans were completed this year, while the Kenai fire management plan is scheduled for completion in 1984.



Watershed

A water resources assessment of the Unalakleet River basin was completed in a report of field work done during 1982-1983.

Information gathered from a water inventory conducted in the Haines and Iliamna areas is being compared to data gathered from USGS gauging stations.

These inventories will provide some data for the five-year statewide Soils, Water and Air Management program policy plan. This program provides protection of soil, water and air resources on public lands administered by BLM.

EEO

The work force at the district consists of 28% women
72% men

Average permanent employee grade is 8.85.

Managers make up 18% of the work force.

Grade Spread

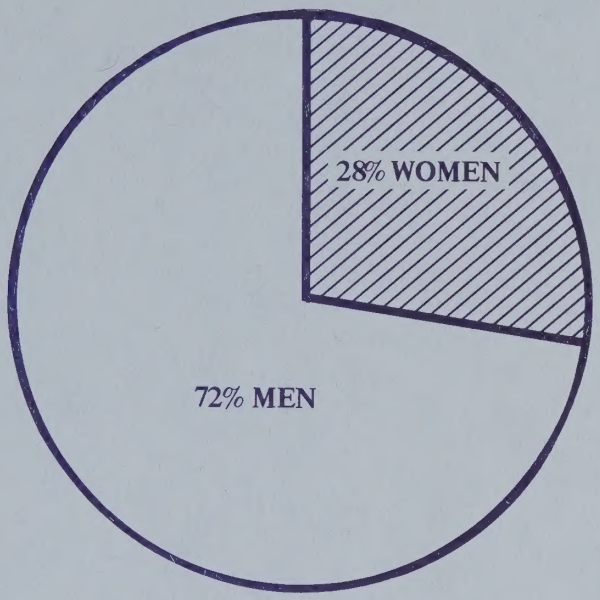
Women

30 women are in grades GS1 - GS7
18 women are in grades GS9 - GS12

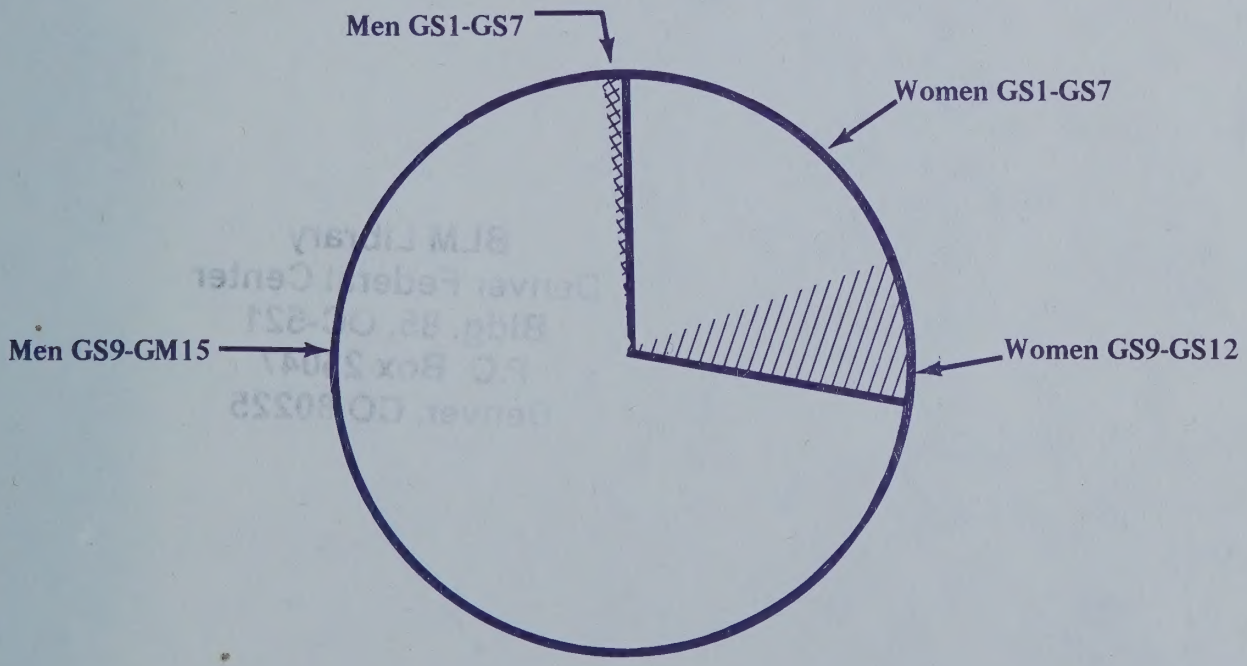
4 men are in grades GS1 - GS7
82 men are in grades GS9 -GM15

Minorities
9.6%
0% increase from last year

Percentage of Men and Women



Grade % of Men and Women



Safety

One vehicle and several work place accidents occurred during the fiscal year. Even though the district represents 14 percent of the BLM workforce in Alaska, the district was responsible for only 1 percent of the accidents. This was a 1 percent improvement over last year.

The safety officer credits this exemplary safety record to greater emphasis on safety guidelines and adherence to the new Anchorage District safety manual.

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